

Independent Ombudsman

for the

Texas Juvenile Justice Department



Third Quarter Report FY 14

March 1, 2014 to May 31, 2014

Introduction:

This report is the third Quarterly Report of FY 2014 to be submitted by this office under statute and is intended for the Executive Director of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, members of the Texas Legislature, and the Auditor for the State of Texas. This report will serve to provide a description of the activities of the office during the third quarter of FY 14 spanning March 2013 through May 2014.

Overview of the Work of the Independent Ombudsman

The Independent Ombudsman (IO) was established for the purpose of investigating, evaluating, and securing the rights of the children committed to the Juvenile Justice Department, including a child released under supervision before final discharge. To fulfill the duties of the office, IO staff regularly visit all TJJD secure facilities, halfway houses, parole offices, all contract care programs as well as tracks Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation (ANE) incidents from all pre/post adjudication county facilities. Currently, TJJD operates 6 secure facilities, 8 halfway houses, and several parole district locations. Additionally, TJJD contracts with additional facilities to provide services to TJJD youth. While the IO seeks to address systemic problems with TJJD service delivery, the office has resolved numerous individual complaints, as well.

The office successfully visited and inspected secure TJJD facilities, as well as halfway houses, contract care facilities and parole offices to monitor for compliance with best practices for the safety and security of the youth. In addition, all ANE incident reports from county facilities have been reviewed and tracked for trends.

Ombudsman's Comments

The Independent Ombudsman completed a review of all secure facilities during this quarter in addition to regular site visits. The purpose of these visits was to do an immediate assessment for safety of youth in each of the facilities at the request of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. Reports secured from the TJJD data files indicated the number of assaults, including youth on youth and youth on staff, declined over the last few months. In addition, gang activity and disruptions also declined in most of the facilities. The facility that was on a Corrective Action Plan had a decrease in all disruptive behavior as well. While the data indicated an improvement during this time period, history shows fluctuations throughout the year which means the current numbers are not indicative of a steady trend. However, the data does indicate that at the time of review and visits there had been a decrease in the amount of violence in the secure facilities and the youth interviewed did not express an increase in fears for their safety. Additionally, walkthroughs of the facilities did not produce additional areas of concern. The OIO concluded that the overall safety of the youth was in no more or less jeopardy than is typically and inherently present in correctional facilities. The OIO will continue to monitor the facilities and all available data for safety concerns.

Accounting of Site Visits, Youth Contact and Individual Cases

	FY 2013	3rd Quarter FY14	FY14 Total
Site Visits	236	61	171
Number of Youth Interviewed	1410	589	1153
Number of Youth Interviews Conducted	2915	798	2266
Closed Cases	256	37	154

Facilities visited by IO staff during the third quarter

Secure Facilities

Evins Regional Juvenile Center (*Edinburg TX*)
Gainesville State School (*Gainesville TX*)
Giddings State School (*Giddings TX*)
McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility (*Mart TX*)
Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex (*Brownwood TX*)

TJJD Halfway Houses

Ayres House-*San Antonio TX*
Brownwood Halfway House-*Brownwood TX*
Cottrell House-*Dallas TX*
Edna Tamayo House-*Harlingen TX*
McFadden Ranch-*Roanoke TX*
Schaeffer House-*El Paso TX*
Willoughby House-*Fort Worth TX*
York House-*Corpus Christi TX*

TJJD District Offices

Austin District Office
Dallas District Office
El Paso District Office
Fort Worth District Office
Houston District Office
San Antonio District Office

Parole Areas (Parole officers not working out of a district office)

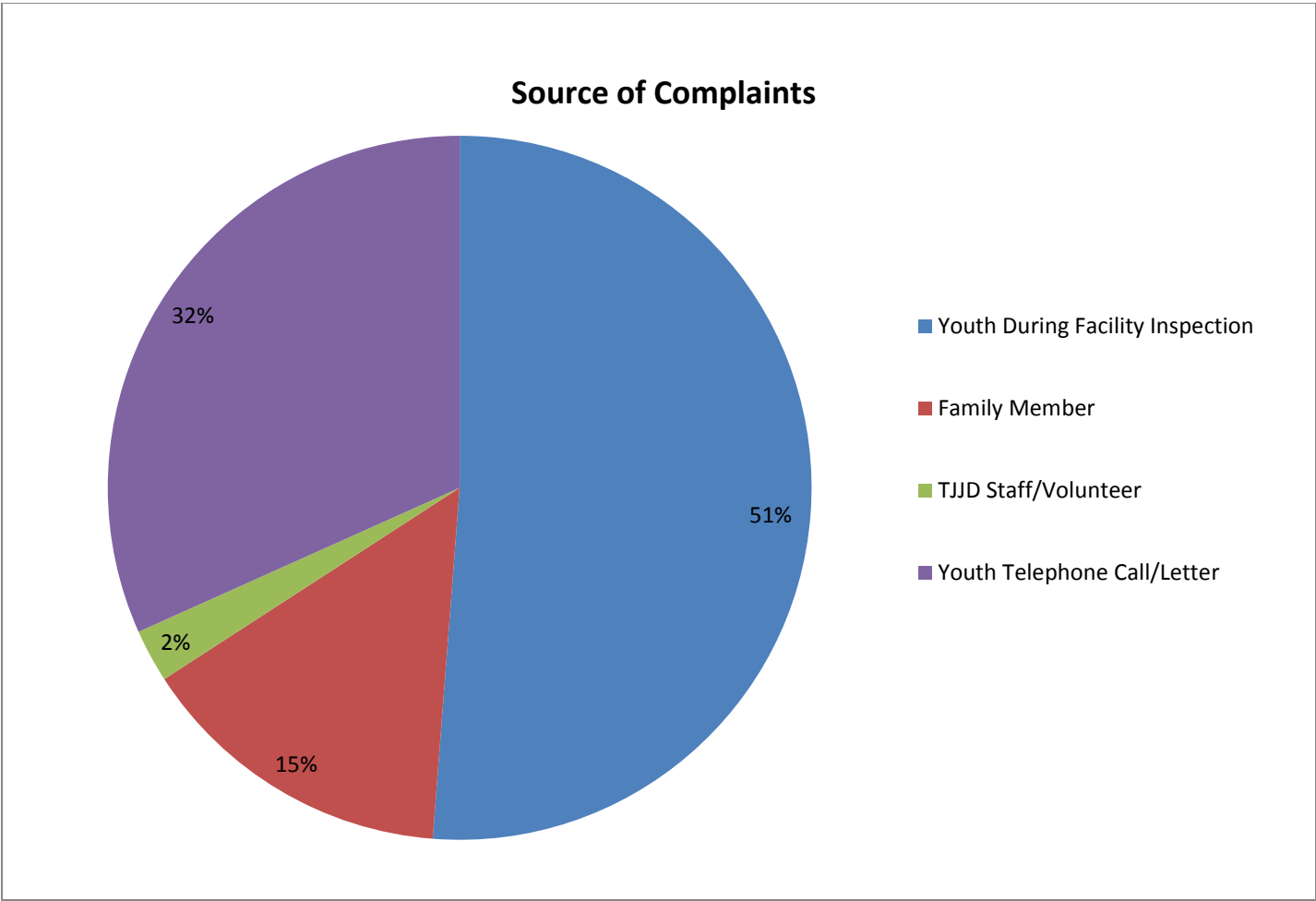
Amarillo Area Parole
Bell County Area Parole
Harlingen Area Parole
Lubbock Area Parole
Midland Area Parole
Tyler Area Parole

Contract Care Facilities

Amikids, dba Rio Grande Valley-*Los Fresnos TX*
Austin State Hospital-*Austin TX*
Byrds Therapeutic Group Home-*Houston TX*
G4S Youth Services, LLC-*Brownwood*
Garza County Regional Juvenile Center-*Post TX*
Gulf Coast Trades Center-*New Waverly TX*
National Mentor Healthcare LLC, East Intermediate-*Houston TX*
Pegasus School RTC-*Lockhart TX*
Specialized Alternatives for Youth (SAFY)-*Arlington TX*

Anyone may file a complaint with the IO. Complaints can be made via telephone, mail, fax, email, or in person during a facility inspection. The IO received 41 complaints during the third quarter. The majority of these cases were received directly from the youth during facility inspections.

Third Quarter-FY 14



Complaints Received by Facility-Third Quarter FY 14*

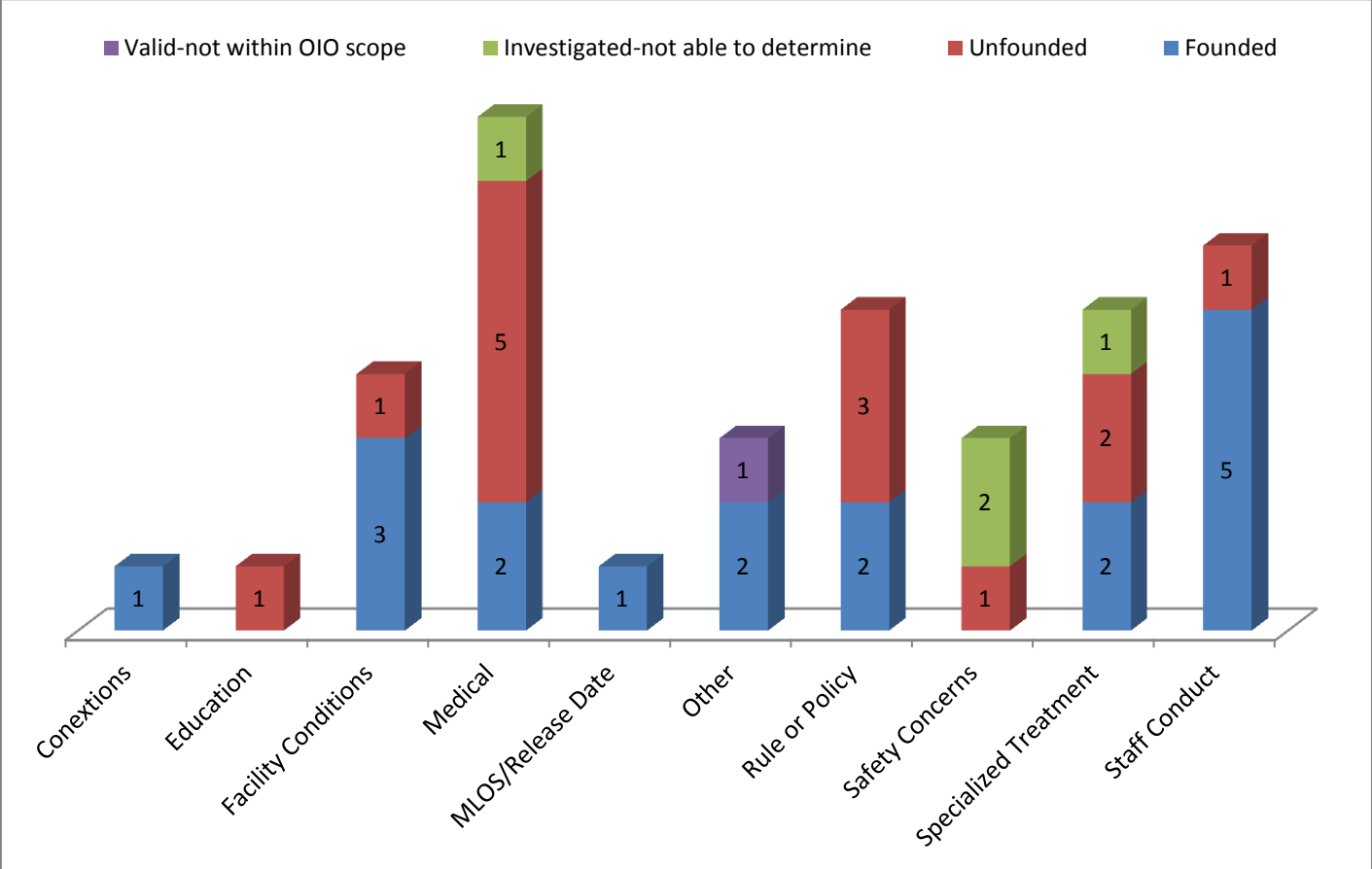
	Total for Facility	Conexions	Education	Facility Conditions	MLOS/Release Date	Medical	Other	Rule or Policy	Safety Concerns	Specialized Treatment	Staff Conduct
AYRES HOUSE	2							2			
EVINS RJC	11		1	2	2				1	1	4
G4S YOUTH SERVICES LLC	1			1							
GAINESVILLE STATE SCHOOL	3					1	1			1	
GIDDINGS STATE SCHOOL	11	1			1		2	1	2	2	2
MCLENNAN COUNTY SJCF	2							2			
MCLENNAN COUNTY RTC	1				1						
RON JACKSON SJCC	7			1	4			1	1		
YORK HOUSE	3				3						

* Facilities without complaints are not listed

The IO closed 37 cases in the third quarter of fiscal year 2014. Cases are closed in one of four ways: Founded, Unfounded, Investigated-unable to determine, and Valid-not within IO scope.

Closed Cases

Third Quarter FY 14

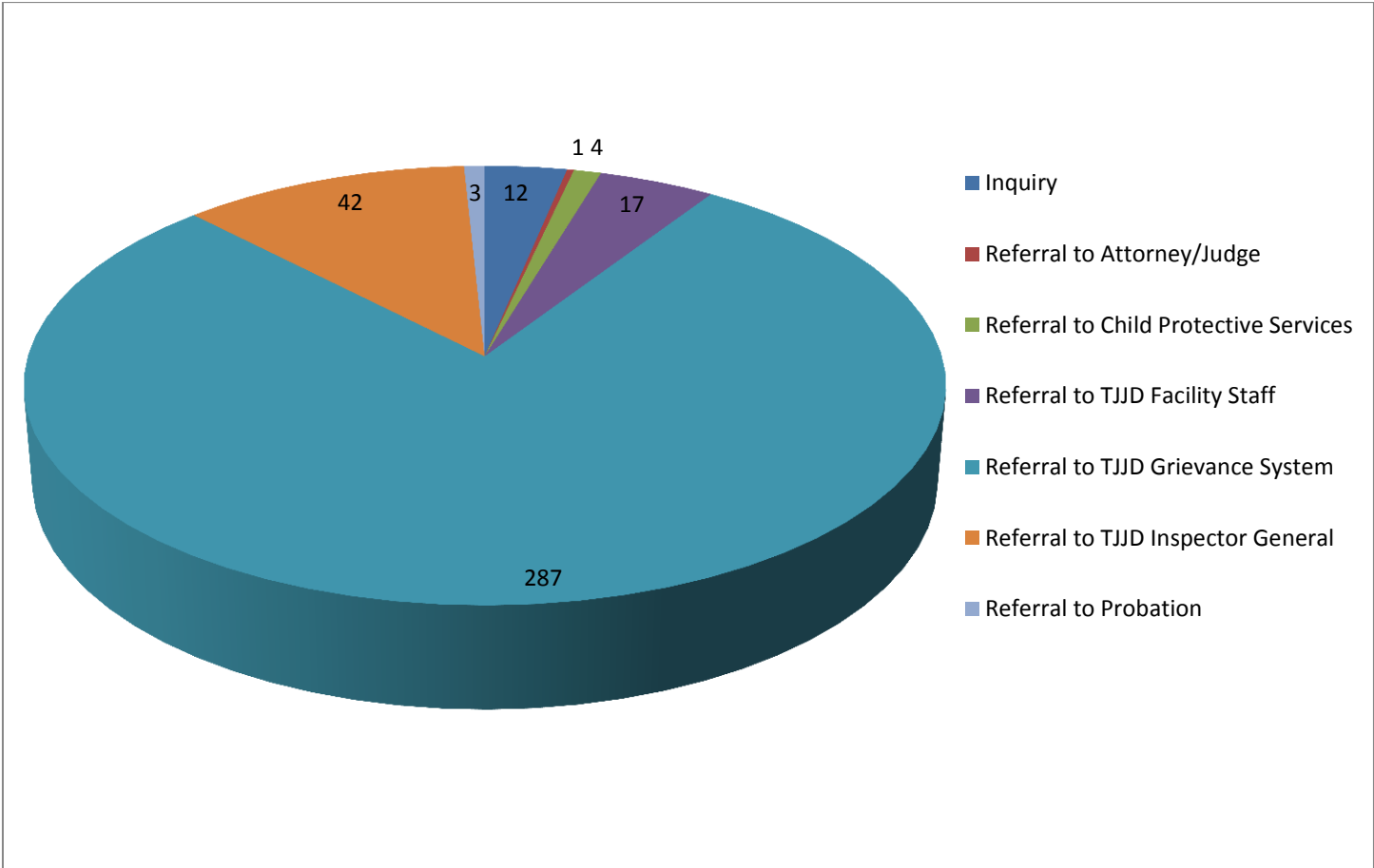


* Note: The Independent Ombudsman generally does not make findings regarding the quality or appropriateness of the care delivered. Unless otherwise noted, the medical cases in this report involve only issues of access to health care services.

In addition to the cases that are investigated by IO staff, the office also receives numerous inquiries and complaints that are referred to the appropriate authority. The IO received 366 inquiries and referrals during the third quarter of fiscal year 2014.

Inquiries and Referrals

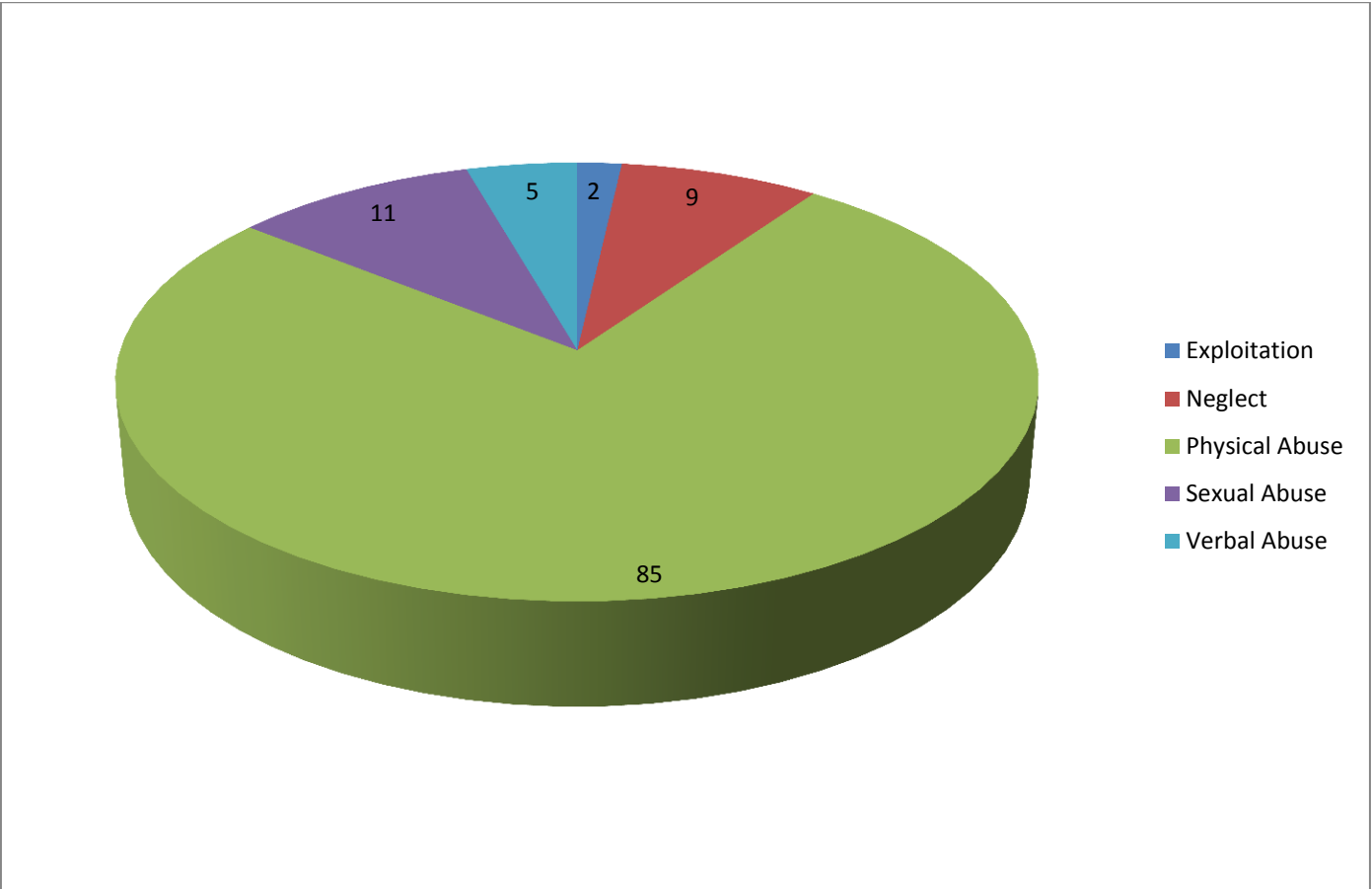
Third Quarter FY14



The IO reviewed 112 ANE reports in the third quarter of fiscal year 2014.

**Reports of Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation
from County Operated Facilities***

Third Quarter FY 14



*These reports are reviewed by the IO, but there is no investigation or determination of findings made by the office. The IO tracks these incidents for indications of systemic issues and trends.